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MARKET CLASSES AND GRADES OF FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE

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FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE

Cattle produced primarily for beef may, at some stage in their development after they have passed the veal stage, properly be termed "feeders" or "stockers."

In areas where feed grains are produced extensively a relatively large percentage of the beef cattle produced are grazed and fed until they have attained enough finish to allow them to be classed as slaughter animals. In areas where feed crops are not produced extensively it is customary to sell a relatively large percentage of the cattle produced as feeders or stockers before they have attained sufficient finish to be classed as slaughter animals. As beef cattle are produced extensively in the range areas of the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain States and relatively little feed grain is produced there a large percentage of the cattle are marketed as feeders and stockers.

Range feeder and stocker cattle are marketed mostly during the late summer and fall months. They are usually sold as calves, yearlings, or 2-year-olds. By late summer and fall they have utilized the current summer's supply of grass and it is necessary that they be moved from summer ranges in anticipation of winter snows. Furthermore, such cattle are in broadest demand during the late summer and fall, when feed crops have been harvested and farmers in the Corn Belt can estimate the number of animals they will need in order to utilize their available feed supplies. Feeder and stocker cattle that originate in cattle-producing sections other than the range areas, are marketed throughout the year.

The movement of feeder and stocker cattle from range to feed lot is accomplished by a number of methods. The most important is

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through the public markets to which feeder and stocker cattle are consigned in large numbers by ranchers and to which prospective buyers either go to make their selections personally or send their orders to have their cattle selected by commission men acting as their agents. Large numbers are consigned to auction markets located at points that are readily accessible to prospective sellers and buyers. Large numbers are also sold direct from the ranch to graziers and feeders. Such transactions are sometimes consummated by the ranchman and the feeder individually and at other times through an order buyer who acts in the capacity of an intermediary agent between the buyer and the seller.

Trading in feeder and stocker cattle is materially facilitated by the use of standard classes and grades whether the cattle are bought and sold through public markets, through auction markets, or direct from ranch to feed lot. The use of standard class and grade terminology enables the rancher to accurately describe the cattle he has for sale and the prospective buyer to accurately describe his requirements, thus facilitating trading on the basis of common understanding. Furthermore the use of standard classes and grades facilitates accurate price comparison and a correct interpretation of market conditions. The standard classes and grades for feeder and stocker cattle herein described have been in use for several years by the United States Department of Agriculture in reporting the principal public markets at which feeder and stocker cattle are bought and sold.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS AND CLASSIFICATIONS FOR FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE

The term "cattle" includes bovine animals of all ages.

Feeder and stocker cattle are those which show evidence of ability to take on additional weight and finish and which are intended for that purpose.

Class is a major market classification for Feeders and Stockers based on sex or sex condition.

CLASSES OF FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE

The classes of Feeders and Stockers are Steers, Heifers, and Cows. Stags and Bulls are also occasionally sold as Feeders and Stockers. These classes are defined as follows:

A Steer is a male bovine animal which was castrated before it had reached sufficient maturity to make reproduction possible and has developed physical characteristics peculiar to its class.

A Heifer is a female bovine animal which has never had a calf and which has not reached a stage of advanced pregnancy.

A Cow is a female bovine animal which has had one or more calves or which has reached an advanced stage of pregnancy.

A Bull is an uncastrated male bovine animal which has reached sufficient maturity to make reproduction possible and has developed physical characteristics peculiar to its class.

A Stag is a male bovine animal which was castrated after it had reached sufficient maturity to make reproduction possible and which has developed many of the physical characteristics peculiar to the adult uncastrated male.

AGE SELECTIONS OF FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE

Age selection of feeder and stocker cattle is the grouping of animals in any given class into groups in which the age of each animal composing the group falls within specified age limits. As the animal increases in age its conformation and finish are influenced thereby and its sex characteristics become more pronounced. In younger feeder and stocker animals gain in weight is usually attributable to muscular development or growth to a greater extent than to an increase in the quantity of fat, whereas in older animals the reverse is true. Age selection is therefore an important grouping with respect to feeder and stocker cattle.

Feeder and Stocker Steers usually are grouped according to their age into calves, yearlings, 2-year-olds and over. Feeder and Stocker Heifers usually are grouped into calves, yearlings, and 2-year-olds. Feeder and Stocker Cows are usually sold as Cows without further age segregation.

USE SELECTIONS

The determination of whether feeder and stocker calves, yearlings, 2-year-olds, or mature cattle are classed as Feeders or Stockers, within each respective class and age group, is based largely upon the purpose for which they are to be used. Those classed as Stocker cattle are usually younger and less mature, and they indicate by their general appearance that they will make more rapid gains in weight on grass or roughage but that in order to acquire a high degree of finish they will require a longer period of feeding than do Feeders. Those that are suitable for Stockers may be used as either Stockers or Feeders. However, Feeder cattle usually carry a higher degree of flesh and finish than Stocker cattle.

WEIGHT SELECTIONS

Weight selection is a subdivision of an age group based on the approximate weight of the animal. When age groups are subdivided on the basis of weight, such subdivisions result in the segregation of the animals within each age group into subgroups of animals that are of approximately uniform weight. Weight preference may vary between markets and seasons, depending upon the class of cattle and the purpose for which they are being selected. Since market practices with respect to weight preferences are not uniform, these preferences are not included in the classification of Feeders and Stockers.

GRADE

Grade is a subdivision of a class-and-age group of feeder and stocker cattle based upon the relative degree of excellence of the animals or group of animals within each such class-and-age groups. Grading constitutes the final process of sorting and grouping and results in a more uniform group of animals than results from class and age selection.

GRADE FACTORS FOR FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE

The grade of feeder and stocker cattle is based on a correct appraisal of the different degrees of the following grade factors—conformation, finish, and quality. These three grade factors are present in all feeder and stocker cattle but they vary widely as between individuals. The grade of an animal represents the composite appraisal

and the evaluation of all three of these major grade factors. For example, an animal may be sufficiently high in finish to grade Choice in that factor, but may be so lacking in conformation and quality that the composite appraisal of the three grade factors which determine the grade would not be higher than Medium. The three grade factors —conformation, finish, and quality—are defined as follows.

CONFORMATION

Conformation is the build, shape, outline, or general contour of the animal and refers to the degree of symmetry or relative proportion of its parts. The degree of conformation is determined by the proportionate relationship of width, depth, and length of body to each other. Animals of excellent conformation are very compact and symmetrical. The body is relatively wide and deep in proportion to its length. The head is relatively short and wide, the neck short and thick, the crops are full, and the back, loin, and rump are relatively broad. The legs are relatively short and set wide apart, and the top line and the under line are approximately straight and parallel. Animals of poor conformation are rangy, and the body is narrow and shallow in proportion to its length. The head is relatively long and narrow, the neck long and thin, the crops are flat, and the back, loin, and rump are narrow in relation to the size of the body. The back may be high at the shoulders, low in the middle, and high at the tailhead. The legs are relatively long and set close together, and the under line is high in the chest and flank.

FINISH

Finish is the quantity and distribution of fat. It is dependent upon inherited tendencies, age, and sex condition, as well as upon the quantity and kind of feed the animal has consumed. The degree of finish in feeder and stocker cattle is important because of its influence upon the length of time required for an animal to attain a given degree of finish as a slaughter animal. Finish in a feeder or stocker animal also indicates, to some extent, its general thrift and inherent ability to acquire additional finish. The degree of finish that may be possessed by feeder and stocker cattle of any grade varies within relatively wide limits. The higher grades of feeder and stocker cattle of all ages, must have sufficient finish to show that the growth and development of the animal has not been retarded. Desirable finish may vary from the minimum amount which will show that the development of the animal has not been retarded to the maximum amount it may possess and still be considered a feeder or stocker animal.

QUALITY

Quality in an animal refers primarily to its breeding and refinement. Animals of excellent quality usually show the characteristics of high-grade or purebred beef breeds. These factors are evidenced by certain inherent characteristics of bone, hide, head, and smoothness in relation to both frame and fleshing. The animals possess thick muscling, medium-sized bone, a mellow hide, a clean-cut well-shaped head, and a high degree of symmetry and smoothness. They indicate in their general appearance that they will gain in weight and finish rapidly and will produce carcasses of exceptionally high grade if properly finished. Animals of low quality do not usually

possess beef-breed characteristics. They may possess either very heavy or very fine bone and tight hides. The muscling is thin and the body is unsymmetrical and rangy. They indicate in their general appearance that they will not finish rapidly in relation to the quantity and kind of feed consumed, and will not produce carcasses of Choice or Prime grade even though extensively fed.

FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE CLASSIFICATION AND GRADES

Class	Age groups	Grade
Steers	Calves	Fancy. Choice. Good. Medium. Common. Inferior.
	Yearlings	Fancy. Choice. Good. Medium. Common. Inferior.
	2-year-olds and older	Fancy. Choice. Good. Medium. Common. Inferior.
Heifers	Calves	Fancy. Choice. Good. Medium. Common. Inferior.
	Yearlings	Fancy. Choice. Good. Medium. Common. Inferior.
	2-year-olds	Fancy. Choice. Good. Medium. Common. Inferior.
Cows	All ages	Fancy. Choice. Good. Medium. Common. Inferior.

STANDARDS FOR GRADES OF FEEDER AND STOCKER STEERS, HEIFERS, AND COWS

It is not practicable to attempt to describe all of the animals that may be grouped within each grade. The following grade descriptions, therefore, describe an animal or a group of animals that is typical of the middle of each grade. The photographs used were selected irrespective of breed.

GRADES OF FEEDER AND STOCKER STEERS

FANCY GRADE FEEDER AND STOCKER STEERS

Fancy grade Feeder and Stocker Steers closely approach the ideal in conformation, finish, and quality. They are relatively large for their age—breed and type considered—have the general appearance of exceptional thrift and vitality, and show ability to gain weight and finish rapidly. The body is very compact and symmetrical. It is very wide and deep in proportion to its length. The head is very short and wide, and the neck is very short. The legs are very short and set wide apart. The top line and the under line, as well as the lines of the sides, are approximately straight and parallel.

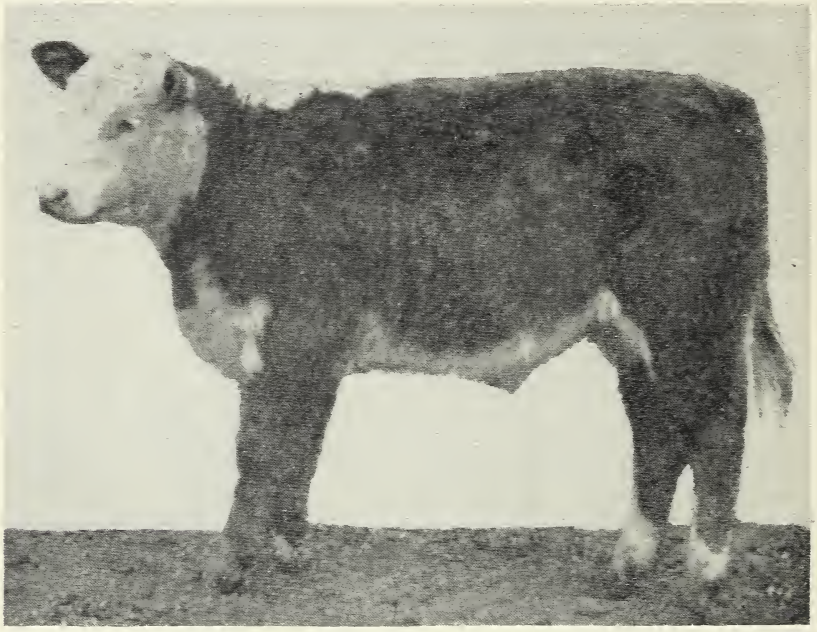

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FIGURE 1.—Fancy grade Feeder Steer.

The chest is very wide and deep, the crops are full, and the ribs are long and exceptionally well-sprung. The belly is very wide and deep but not paunchy. The back, loin, and rump are very full and wide in proportion to the size of the body, and the tailhead is even with the top line. The thighs are very wide, full, and deep in relation to the size of the animal, and the twist is very thick and deep and exceptionally low in the seam. Animals of this grade indicate in their general appearance a moderate degree of refinement. The head is exceptionally clean-cut in appearance, the bones of the legs are of medium size—type, weight, and age of animal considered—and the joints are smooth and free from coarseness. The hide is pliable and of moderate thickness. The flesh covering over the shoulders, crops, back, loin, and rump is very thick, firm, and of proportionately uniform thickness, giving the animal a plump and well-rounded appearance. The flesh covering over all parts of the body is mellow. (Fig. 1.)

CHOICE GRADE FEEDER AND STOCKER STEERS

Choice grade Feeder and Stocker Steers are very good in conformation, finish, and quality. They have the general appearance of thrift and vitality. They show good growth for their age and the ability to gain flesh and weight rapidly. The body is compact and symmetrical. It is wide and deep in proportion to its length. The head is short and wide, and the neck is short. The legs are short and set wide apart. The top line and the under line, as well as the lines of the sides, are nearly straight and parallel. The chest is wide and deep, the crops are full, and the ribs are long and well-sprung.

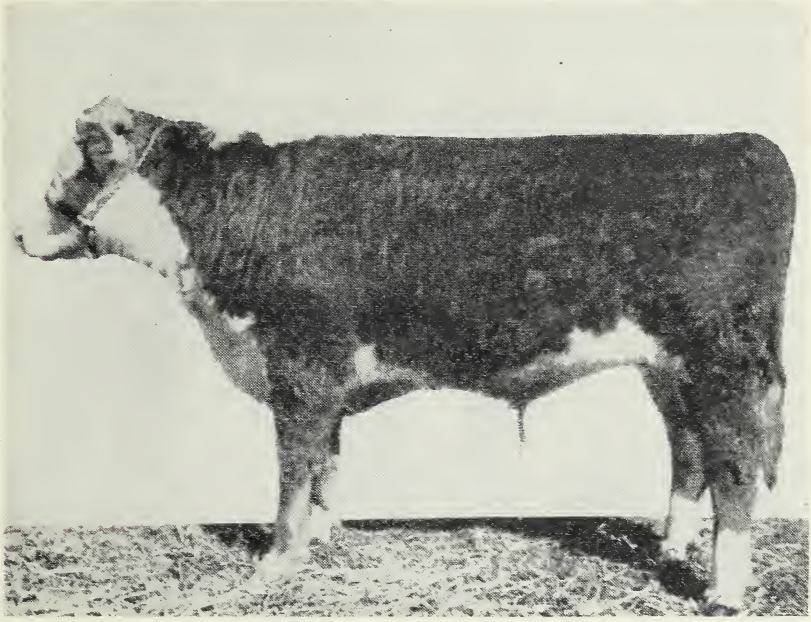

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FIGURE 2.—Choice grade Feeder Steer.

The belly is wide and deep but not noticeably paunchy. The back, loin, and rump are full and wide in proportion to the size of the body, and the tailhead is smooth and even with the top line. The thighs are full, wide, and deep in relation to the size of the animal, and the twist is full, deep, and low in the seam. Animals of this grade indicate in their general appearance a moderate degree of refinement. The head is clean-cut in appearance, the bones of the legs are of medium size or slightly large—age, type, and weight considered—and the joints are smooth and free from coarseness. The hide is pliant and of moderate thickness. The flesh covering over the shoulders, crops, back, loin, and rump is thick, firm, and of proportionately uniform thickness, giving the animal a plump and well-rounded appearance. The flesh covering over all parts of the body is mellow. (Fig. 2.)

GOOD GRADE FEEDER AND STOCKER STEERS

Good grade Feeder and Stocker Steers are fairly good in conformation, finish, and quality. They have the appearance of being thrifty but may appear slightly small for their age. The body may tend to be rangy and somewhat unsymmetrical. It is slightly long in relation to its width, or depth, or both. The head is slightly long in relation to its width, and the neck is slightly long. The top line is slightly lower in the middle than at the shoulders or rump, and the lines of the sides are somewhat wider through the middle than through the shoulders or thighs. The chest is only moderately wide and deep

AMA 1693

FIGURE 3.—Good grade Feeder Steer.

in relation to the size of the body. The crops are only moderately full, and the spring of rib is slightly deficient. The belly is either slightly paunchy or is constricted. The back, loin, and rump are only moderately wide in proportion to the size of the animal, and the tailhead may be either somewhat low or high in relation to the top line. The thighs are moderately full, wide, and deep in relation to the size of the body, and the twist is moderately full, deep, and low in the seam. Animals of this grade show either a slight degree of coarseness or a slightly excessive refinement. The bones of the legs are either slightly coarse or too refined, and the joints show some coarseness. The hide is either slightly thick and unpliant or it may be slightly thin and tight. The flesh covering over the shoulders, crops, back, loin, and rump is moderately thick, somewhat deficient in proportionate uniformity, and may be slightly soft. The animal is somewhat angular in general appearance. (Fig. 3.)

MEDIUM GRADE FEEDER AND STOCKER STEERS

Medium grade Feeder and Stocker Steers are usually only fair in conformation, finish, and quality. They are frequently a little small for their age—breed and type considered—and show only a moderate degree of thrift. The body is moderately rangy and unsymmetrical. The head is somewhat long in relation to its width, and the neck is moderately long in relation to the size of the body. The body is frequently moderately narrow and slightly shallow in relation to its length. The legs are somewhat long and are set relatively close together. The shoulders are usually rather prominent, and the crops

AMA 1694

FIGURE 4.—Medium grade Feeder Steer.

and ribs often tend to be flat. The top line is frequently uneven, being higher at the shoulders and rump than in the middle, and the under line usually is cut moderately high in the flank. The middle shows either a moderate degree of paunchiness or constriction. The tailhead is often either high or low in relation to the top line. The back, loin, and rump are slightly lacking in fullness and are slightly narrow in relation to the size of the animal. The thighs are slightly narrow and tapering, and the twist is slightly high in the seam. Animals of this grade are usually either moderately coarse or fine in their general appearance. The head is frequently coarse, and the bones of the legs either moderately coarse or too refined. The hide is usually either coarse and unpliant or fine. The flesh covering over the shoulders, back, loin, and rump is slightly thin and tends to be either soft or slightly hard and somewhat deficient in proportionate thickness. (Fig. 4.)

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COMMON GRADE FEEDER AND STOCKER STEERS

Common grade Feeder and Stocker Steers are poor in conformation, finish, and quality. They are usually relatively small for their age—breed and type considered—and indicate in their appearance a rather low degree of thrift and vitality. The body is usually decidedly rangy. It is usually narrow and shallow in proportion to its length. The head is usually relatively long in relation to its width, and the neck is long. The legs are relatively long in proportion to the depth of the body and are set close together. The top line and the under line are usually irregular. The top line is fre-

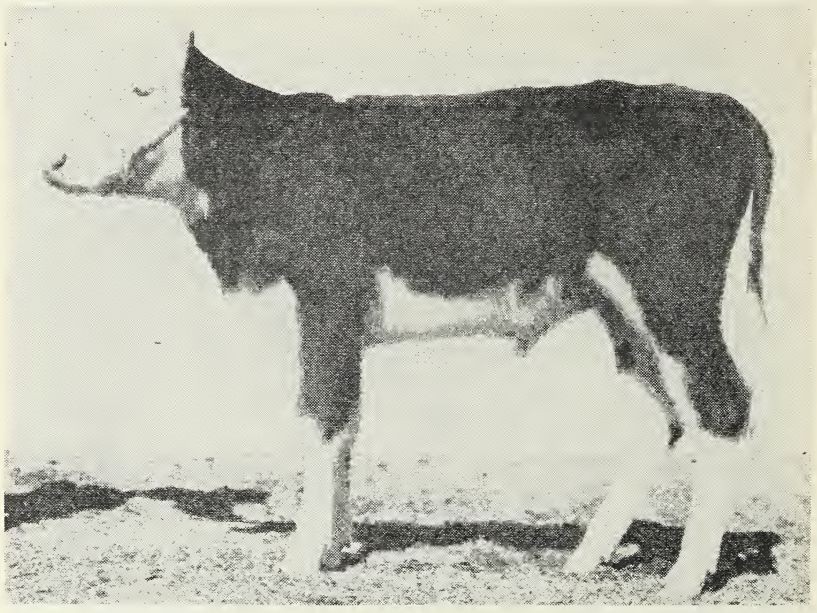

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FIGURE 5.—Common grade Feeder Steer.

quently lower in the middle than over the shoulders or rump, and the under line is usually cut high in the flank. The chest is frequently shallow and narrow, the crops are hollow or depressed, and the ribs are short and flat. The belly is frequently either very paunchy or constricted. The shoulders are usually prominent, and the back and loin are relatively narrow in relation to the size of the body. The rump is narrow and peaked, with the tailhead usually either decidedly high or decidedly drooped in relation to the top line. The thighs are thin, narrow, and tapering, and the twist is thin and high in the seam. Animals of this grade are either very coarse or very refined in their general appearance, and the bones of the legs are very coarse or much too refined. The hide is frequently either very thick or very thin, and the hair is frequently dry and harsh. The fleshing over the shoulders, crops, back, loin, and rump is thin, and the outlines of the bones in these parts are usually readily perceptible. The fleshing is usually disproportionately distributed over these parts and is frequently either soft or slightly hard. Animals of this grade are usually unkempt in their general appearance and frequently show the effects of poor breeding and care. (Fig. 5.)

INFERIOR GRADE FEEDER AND STOCKER STEERS

Inferior grade Feeder and Stocker Steers are very deficient in conformation, finish, and quality. They indicate in their general appearance that they are very small for their age—breed and type considered. The body is very rangy. The head is usually very long in relation to its width, and the neck is very long in relation to the size of the body. The legs are very long in relation to the depth of the body and set close together. The top line and the under line are very irregular. The top line is usually very low in the middle in relation to the top of the shoulders and hips, and the under line is

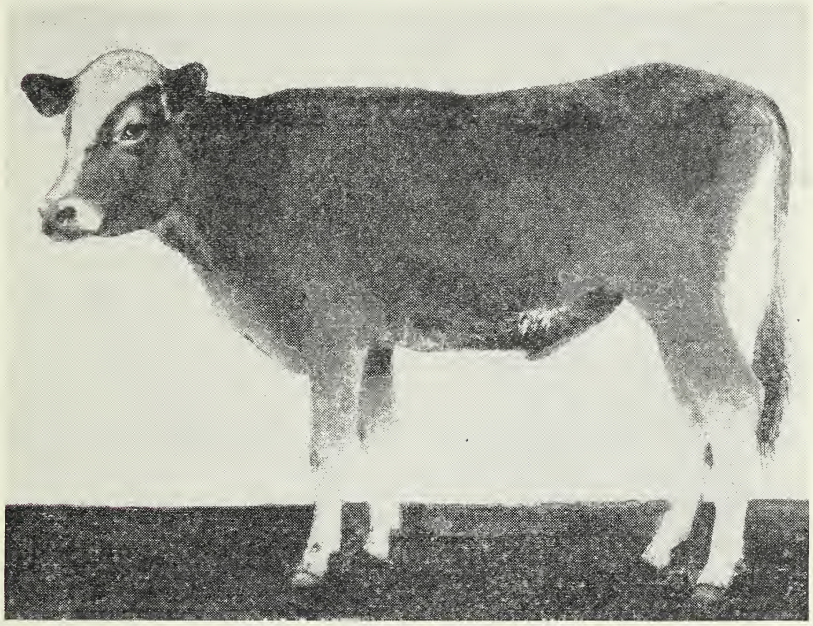

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FIGURE 6.—Inferior grade Feeder Steer.

cut extremely high in the flank. The side lines are usually very narrow through the shoulders and thighs in relation to the width through the middle. The chest is very narrow and shallow, and the belly is either very paunchy or constricted. The back and loin are usually very narrow in relation to the size of the body, and the rump is very narrow and peaked with the tailhead either extremely high or low in relation to the rest of the top line. The thighs are usually very thin and narrow, the twist thin and the seam of the twist very high. The bones of the legs are usually either very coarse or show excessive refinement in relation to size and weight of the animal. The hide is either extremely thick and coarse or very thin and is frequently very tight and unpliant. The hair is usually very coarse and dry. The shoulders are frequently coarse, and the bones of the shoulders, back, ribs, loin, and rump are very prominent indicating a very thin covering of flesh. In general appearance animals of this grade have a pronouncedly unkempt appearance and indicate very poor breeding and care. (Fig. 6.)

GRADES OF FEEDER AND STOCKER HEIFERS

FANCY GRADE FEEDER AND STOCKER HEIFERS

Fancy grade Feeder and Stocker Heifers very closely approach the ideal in conformation, finish, and quality. They are usually relatively large for their age—breed and type considered—have the general appearance of exceptional thrift and vitality, and show ability to gain weight and flesh rapidly. The body is very compact and symmetrical. It is very wide and deep in proportion to its length. The head is very short and wide, and the neck is relatively short. The legs are very short in relation to the depth of body and are set very wide apart. The top line and the under line, as well as the lines of the sides, are approximately straight and parallel. The chest is very wide and deep in relation to the size of the body, and the crops are very full. The ribs are long and exceptionally well-sprung. The belly is relatively wide and deep but is not paunchy, and the flank is very low. The back, loin, and rump are straight, very full, and wide in relation to the rest of the body. The tailhead is smooth and even with the top line. The thighs are full and very wide and deep in relation to the size of the animal, and the twist is very deep and exceptionally low in the seam. Animals of this grade indicate in their general appearance a moderate degree of refinement. The head is exceptionally clean-cut in appearance. The bones of the legs are of medium size—type, weight, and age of the animal considered—and free from coarseness. The hide is pliable and of moderate thickness. The flesh covering over the shoulders, crops, back, loin, and rump is very thick, firm, and of proportionately uniform thickness. The animal has a plump and well-rounded appearance.

CHOICE GRADE FEEDER AND STOCKER HEIFERS

Choice grade Feeder and Stocker Heifers are very good in conformation, finish, and quality. Animals of this grade have the general appearance of thrift and vitality and show very good growth for their age. They indicate in their general appearance the ability to gain weight and flesh rapidly. The body is compact and symmetrical. It is wide and deep in proportion to its length. The head is short and wide, and the neck is moderately short in relation to the size of the animal. The legs are short in relation to the depth of body and are set relatively wide apart. The top line and the under line are very nearly straight and parallel. The lines of the sides are nearly straight but there may be slightly less width through the shoulders than through the middle or the thighs. The chest is wide and deep, the crops are full, and the ribs are long and well-sprung. The belly is relatively wide and deep but not noticeably paunchy, and the rear flank is low. The back, loin, and rump are full and wide in proportion to the size of the body, and the tailhead is smooth and even with the top line. The thighs are wide and deep in relation to the size of the animal, and the twist is deep and low in the seam. Animals of this grade indicate in their general appearance a moderate degree of refinement. The head is clean-cut in appearance, and the bones of the legs are of medium size—age, type, and weight considered—and free from coarseness.

The hide is of moderate thickness and is loose and pliable. The flesh covering over the shoulders, crops, back, loin, and rump is moderately thick, firm, and of proportionately uniform thickness, giving the body a moderately plump and well-rounded appearance.

GOOD GRADE FEEDER AND STOCKER HEIFERS

Good grade Feeder and Stocker Heifers are fairly good in conformation, finish, and quality. They have the general appearance of being thrifty but may appear slightly small for their age. The body may be slightly rangy, and the legs may be only moderately short in relation to the depth of body. The body is only moderately wide and deep in relation to its length. The head is slightly long in relation to its width, and the neck is frequently slightly long in relation to the size of the body. The top line is a little lower in the middle than at the shoulders or the rump, and the lines of the sides are somewhat wider through the middle than through the shoulders or the thighs. The chest is only moderately wide and deep in relation to the size of the animal. The crops are slightly deficient in fullness, and the ribs tend to be slightly flat. The belly shows either a slight degree of paunchiness or is slightly constricted. The back, loin, and rump are moderately wide in proportion to the size of the animal. The tailhead is either slightly high or low in relation to the top line. The thighs are moderately full, wide, and deep in relation to the size of the body, and the twist is slightly deficient and only moderately low in the seam. Animals of this grade show either a slight degree of coarseness or somewhat excessive refinement. The bones of the legs are either slightly coarse or too refined. The hide is either slightly thick and unpliable or thin and tight. The flesh covering over the shoulders, crops, back, loin, and rump is moderately thick and somewhat deficient in proportionate uniformity of thickness.

MEDIUM GRADE FEEDER AND STOCKER HEIFERS

Medium grade Feeder and Stocker Heifers are usually only fair in conformation, finish, and quality. They are frequently slightly small for their age—breed and type considered—and indicate in their general appearance only a moderate degree of thrift. The body is moderately rangy and unsymmetrical. The head is relatively long in relation to its width, and the neck moderately long in relation to the size of the body. The body is frequently moderately narrow or shallow or both, particularly through the chest, in relation to its length. The legs are slightly long in relation to the size of the body and are set relatively close together. The shoulders are frequently somewhat pointed on the top, and the crops and ribs are moderately flat. The top line is frequently moderately low in the middle, and the lines of the sides are considerably closer together through the thighs and chest than through the middle. The under line is usually cut high in the flank, and the belly shows either rather pronounced paunchiness or constriction. The back and loin may be slightly narrow in relation to the size of the animal. The loin is frequently slightly low and the rump somewhat narrow and peaked. The tailhead may be either high or low in relation to the top line.

The thighs are usually somewhat narrow and tapering in width, and the twist may be moderately high in the seam. Animals of this grade are usually either coarse or fine in their general appearance. The head is slightly coarse and the bones of the legs are either moderately coarse or too refined. The hide is usually either somewhat coarse and unpliable or thin. The flesh covering over the shoulders, back, loin, and rump is slightly thin and somewhat deficient in proportionate thickness, particularly over the shoulders, giving the lines of the animal an uneven appearance. The animal has a somewhat sunken appearance in the crops and loin, and the bones of the shoulders, back, and hips may be moderately prominent.

COMMON GRADE FEEDER AND STOCKER HEIFERS

Common grade Feeder and Stocker Heifers are poor in conformation, finish, and quality. They are usually relatively small for their age—breed and type considered—and indicate in their appearance a rather low degree of thrift and vitality. The body is decidedly rangy and unsymmetrical. It is narrow and frequently shallow in relation to its length. The head is usually relatively long and narrow, and the neck long in relation to the size of the body. The legs are long in relation to the depth of the body and set close together. The top line is frequently low in the middle in relation to the top of the shoulders and the rump. The shoulders are frequently peaked on the top, the crops decidedly sunken, and the ribs short and flat. The chest is frequently shallow and narrow in relation to the size of the body, and the belly either very paunchy or constricted. The back and loin are usually narrow in relation to the size of the body, and the rump is narrow and peaked, with the tailhead either very high or very low in relation to the top line. The thighs are usually very narrow and tapering, and the twist is very deficient and high in the seam. The under line is usually very high in the flank. Animals of this grade are either coarse or very refined in their general appearance, and the bones of the legs are usually either very coarse or too refined. The hide is frequently either very thick and unpliable or very thin, and the hair is often dry and harsh. The flesh covering over the shoulders, crops, back, loin, and rump is usually very thin, especially over the shoulders, and is disproportionately distributed. The outlines of the bones in these parts are readily perceptible. The animals are usually unkempt in their general appearance and show the effects of poor breeding and care.

INFERIOR GRADE FEEDER AND STOCKER HEIFERS

Inferior grade Feeder and Stocker Heifers are usually very poor in conformation, finish, and quality. They are small for their age and indicate in their appearance a rather low degree of thrift and vitality. The body is usually extremely rangy and very narrow and shallow in proportion to its length. The head is very long in relation to its width, and the neck is very long in relation to the size of the body. The legs are usually very long in relation to the depth of body and are set close together. The top line is low in the middle in relation to the top of the shoulders and hips. The belly is either very paunchy or constricted, and the under line

is cut extremely high in the flank. The crops are hollow or sunken to a very marked degree. The thighs are very thin and narrow, and the twist is very thin and very high in the seam. The back, loin, and rump are very narrow in relation to the size of the body, and the loin is usually very low. The rump is narrow and peaked, and the tailhead either very high or very low in relation to the top line. The flesh covering over the shoulders, back, loin, and rump is usually extremely thin, and the bones in these parts are very prominent. The bones of the legs are usually either extremely coarse or extremely refined in relation to the size and weight of the animal. The hide is either extremely thick, tight, unpliant, and coarse or very thin. The hair is often coarse, dry, and harsh. In general appearance animals of this grade have a decidedly unkempt appearance and indicate very poor breeding and care.

GRADES OF FEEDER AND STOCKER COWS

FANCY GRADE FEEDER AND STOCKER COWS

Fancy grade Feeder and Stocker Cows are practically ideal in conformation, finish, and quality. They are relatively young, usually 3-year-olds, possess exceptional thrift and vitality, and indicate in their general appearance the ability to make rapid gains in weight and flesh. The body is very compact and symmetrical. It is very wide and deep in proportion to its length. The head is very short and wide, and the neck is very short in relation to the size of the body. The legs are very short in relation to the depth of body and are set very wide apart. The top line and the under line, as well as the lines of the sides, are approximately straight and parallel. The chest is very wide and deep, the crops are very full, and the ribs long and exceptionally well-sprung. The belly is very wide and deep but it is not paunchy. The back, loin, and rump are straight and very full and wide in relation to the size of the body. The tailhead is even with the top line. The thighs are very full and wide, of approximately uniform thickness, and deep. The twist is very deep and exceptionally low in the seam. The flank is very low. Animals of this grade indicate in their general appearance a moderate degree of refinement. The head is exceptionally clean-cut in appearance. The bones of the legs are of medium size and free from coarseness. The hide is pliable and of moderate thickness. The flesh covering over the shoulders, crops, back, loin, and rump is very thick, proportionately uniform, and firm.

CHOICE GRADE FEEDER AND STOCKER COWS

Choice grade Feeder and Stocker Cows are very good in conformation, finish, and quality. They have the appearance of thrift and vitality and indicate in their general appearance that they will gain weight and finish rapidly. The body is compact and symmetrical. It is wide and deep in proportion to its length. The head is relatively short and wide, and the neck is short in relation to the size of the body. The top line and the under line are approximately straight and parallel. The lines of the sides are slightly wider through the thighs and middle than through the chest. The legs are short and set relatively wide apart. The chest is deep and wide

in relation to the size of the animal. The shoulders are smooth, the crops full, the ribs well-sprung, and the belly is wide and deep but not noticeably paunchy. The back, loin, and rump are straight, full, and wide in relation to the size of the body, and the tailhead is even with the top line. The thighs are wide, full, and deep, and of approximately uniform thickness. The twist is low in the seam and the flank is low. Animals of this grade are moderately refined. The head is clean-cut, and the bones of the legs are of medium size and free from coarseness. The hide is loose, pliable, and of medium thickness. The flesh covering over the shoulders, crops, back, loin, and rump is thick, firm, and of proportionately uniform thickness, giving the body a smooth and well-rounded appearance.

GOOD GRADE FEEDER AND STOCKER COWS

Good grade Feeder and Stocker Cows are fairly good in conformation, finish, and quality. They show a moderate degree of thrift and vitality. The body is moderately wide and deep in proportion to its length. The head is moderately short in proportion to its width, and the neck is slightly long in relation to the size of the body. The top line is approximately straight, and the legs are usually moderately short in relation to the depth of the body. The shoulders are slightly pointed, the crops slightly flat, and the ribs moderately long and well-sprung. The chest is moderately deep and wide in relation to the size of the body, and the belly frequently shows some paunchiness. The back, loin, and rump are moderately wide in relation to the size of the body, and the tailhead is slightly high in relation to the top line. The thighs are moderately wide, full, and deep and somewhat tapering. The twist is moderately full and low in the seam. The rear flank is moderately low. In general appearance animals of this grade may be either slightly coarse or too refined. The bones of the legs show either some coarseness or are somewhat too refined, and the hide is either moderately thick and unpliable or thin. The flesh covering over the shoulders, back, loin, and rump is slightly thin and somewhat deficient in proportionate uniformity over these parts. The lines of the animal usually appear slightly depressed and the bones of the shoulders, back, and hips slightly prominent. There is usually some roughness over the loin, the rump, and the tailhead.

MEDIUM GRADE FEEDER AND STOCKER COWS

Medium grade Feeder and Stocker Cows are usually only fair in conformation, finish, and quality. They indicate in their general appearance only a moderate degree of thrift and vitality. The body is frequently somewhat rangy, being narrow and frequently very shallow in proportion to its length. The legs are usually slightly long in relation to the depth of the body and set somewhat close together. The top line is usually low in the middle in relation to the shoulders and rump, and the tailhead is frequently high in relation to the top line. The head is usually long in proportion to its width, and the neck long in relation to the size of the body. The shoulders are usually pointed on the top and the crops slightly flat or sunken. The chest is frequently slightly narrow and

shallow, and the ribs tend to be short and flat. The belly is usually paunchy. The back, loin, and rump are somewhat narrow in relation to the size of the body. The loin is frequently low and the rump somewhat peaked. The thighs are usually slightly narrow and tapering. The twist is somewhat shallow and high in the seam, and the under line is cut slightly high in the flank. Animals of this grade are usually either slightly too refined or too coarse. The bones of the legs are usually either somewhat large and coarse or too refined, and the hide is either moderately coarse and unpliant or thin. The flesh covering over the shoulders, back, loin, and rump is usually thin, particularly over the shoulders. The lines of the animal have a decidedly depressed or sunken appearance and the bones of the shoulders, back, and hips are usually prominent.

COMMON GRADE FEEDER AND STOCKER COWS

Common grade Feeder and Stocker Cows are poor in conformation, finish, and quality. They are usually lacking in thrift and vitality as indicated by their general appearance. The body is usually very rangy. It is frequently very shallow and narrow in relation to its length. The head is usually long and narrow, and the neck long in relation to the size of the body. The legs are usually long in relation to the depth of the body and are set close together. The top line is usually low in the middle and high at the tailhead. The shoulders are prominent and the chest is narrow and shallow in relation to the rest of the body. The ribs are frequently short and flat and the middle either very paunchy or very constricted. The shoulders are usually pointed at the top, the crops sunken to a marked degree, and the back, loin, and rump are narrow in relation to the size of the animal. The rump is usually peaked and the loin very low. The thighs are narrow and decidedly tapering in width. The twist is very shallow and high in the seam. The rear flank is very high. Animals of this grade are usually either very refined or very coarse in general appearance, and the bones of the legs are either very coarse or much too refined. The hide is either very thick, tight, and unpliant or very thin. The hair is frequently coarse, dry, and harsh. The flesh covering over the shoulders, back, loin, and rump is usually very thin, particularly over the shoulders, and the bones of the shoulders, back, and hips are prominent. The lines of the animal are sunken to a marked degree. The animals are usually ill-kempt and show the effects of poor breeding and care.

INFERIOR GRADE FEEDER AND STOCKER COWS

Inferior grade Feeder and Stocker Cows are very poor in conformation, finish, and quality. They usually indicate in their general appearance that they are lacking in thrift and vitality to a marked degree. The body is usually very rangy, and is frequently very narrow and shallow in proportion to its length. The head is usually long in relation to its width. The neck and legs are long in relation to the size of the body and the legs are set very close together. The chest is usually very narrow and is frequently very shallow in relation to the rest of the body. The top line is usually very low in the middle and high at the tailhead. The crops are very

flat and sunken, and the back, loin, and rump are very narrow in relation to the size of the body. The rump is usually very peaked, and the loin is frequently very low. The thighs are usually very narrow and tapering, and the twist is very shallow and high in the seam. The belly is either extremely paunchy or constricted and the rear flank extremely high. Animals of this grade are usually either much too refined or extremely coarse. The bones of the legs are usually either extremely coarse or much too refined and the hair is either very fine or coarse and harsh. The hide is frequently either extremely thin or thick, tight, and unpliable. The flesh covering over the shoulders, back, loin, and rump is usually extremely thin, particularly over the shoulders. The bones in the shoulders, back, and rump are very prominent, giving the lines of the animal a very depressed and sunken appearance. Animals of this grade have a very unkempt and ill-cared-for appearance and show the effects of poor breeding.

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